

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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First person...

Volunteer tells of love she shares with Lottie Moon for China

By Jean Allgood

It takes only a short term as a volunteer teacher in English as a Second Language (ESL) to understand Lottie Moon's love for

the Chinese people.

China had been a land of mystery, majesty, and mountains; it is so big!! I had



IMPRISONED — Elizabeth Hale (left), Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary to Shanghai, China, spent much of World War II in a Japanese internment camp. After her release in September 1945, she returned to her work with the Fah Hwa Baptist Church in Shanghai. Southern Baptists saw great opportunity in the war's end and in 10 years doubled their overseas missionary force and quadrupled their giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. Pictured with Hale are the pastor to the church (back center) and several of her co-workers. (BP file photo)

wanted to see this place, people, the Great Wall, Li River, Kian's terra cotta soldiers, the Imperial Palace, etc. The people, especially those in the countryside, are the real beauty of China. It is easy to understand Lottie Moon's love and devotion unto death for these people. They are untouched by most of the world's tumult. Their lives revolve around farm, family, friends, and futility. The latter looms heavily on their everyday existence, but it doesn't diminish the other areas.

It was exciting and humbling in 1990, as I was chosen to be one of the first group of 52 to teach ESL in China; we were assigned to five universities. I cannot describe my experience; only in my heart, mind, and soul is it indelibly imprinted — not to be put on paper. The people of China capture your whole being!

I returned, gladly, in 1991 with 14 others to the same place. It was another mountaintop experience. Many tears were shed and our hearts were left in Nanning — not San Francisco.

In 1993, I received a call from Huang Dexun, the director of the Foreign Language Training Center. He asked that I try to recruit teachers from the American South, as he liked Southerners' teaching abilities, dispositions, and our morals. It was a prayerful time but I was able to get many good teachers. (FMB was aware of this.) We had an excellent summer program.

I was invited back in '94 and '95, and with help from many sources, was successful in getting wonderful Christian teachers.

It was work, but work with an eternal significance.

Recently Mr. Huang wrote to me that each successive group is better and better. The Chinese provide food and lodging for teachers, and several weekend trips into parts of South China.

We were free to attend church in Nanning; it was packed each Sunday with several hundred believers. In

July of '93 we witnessed 62 in baptism, in '94, 120; in '95 170. (They must attend a minimum of three months' Bible classes before baptism.) The China church is alive and growing.

This year I had a rare and exciting privilege to be asked to sing at a Provincial Festival. Some of my former students, without my knowledge, went to the television people and other authorities and asked them to have me sing a song I had written (words and music) in 1990 as a tribute to my class and to their country.

Many teachers who have served with me in China have made outstanding contributions to this program in teaching ESL.

One very outstanding couple is our own state coordinators of volunteer work, Margaret and Sidney Pitts of Terry. Also, Dee Cichon, Bay St. Louis; Helen Currie, Pass Christian; and Kim Stewart, Hurlshel Sullivan; and Norma Irby, Gulfport, made significant contributions.

Anyone interested in a rewarding experience that can never be put into words, contact me at (601) 896-1275. The 1996 program is July 6-Aug. 12.

Allgood lives in Gulfport.



Uphill battle

Intolerance and discrimination toward evangelicals continue in many parts of Eastern Europe years after the fall of the Iron Curtain, concludes a report by the Helsinki Commission, an international monitoring group chaired by U.S. Congressman Christopher Smith (R-N.J.). "Minority faith traditions encounter bureaucratic roadblocks to practicing their faiths and are often the objects of harassment," Smith said. Paul Marshall, an academic consultant on religious liberty, pointed out that in Eastern Europe, Orthodox Christianity "continues to intertwine church and state in a symphony, united in their joint mission." Marshall cites Romania, where authorities are being pressured to recognize the Romanian Orthodox Church as the "national church." Legislators in neighboring Armenia passed a law in 1991 declaring the Armenian Apostolic Church as the "national church of the Armenian people." Marshall said there is hope, however: "Improvements in religious freedom in Eastern Europe have come about not so much by legislative change, but by different attitudes on the part of government functionaries."

Unconventional missions

He rides a bicycle back and forth to work. He takes time each Friday to work in a homeless shelter. His "desk" is a big conference table with two bikes hanging overhead. To say Steve Bass is unconventional is an understatement. In 1992, Bass, 38, became one of the youngest-ever directors of missions (DOMs) when he was called to lead the Tulsa (Okla.) Metropolitan Association. He was honored as 1995 DOM of the Year by the Home Mission Board. "We don't talk about church growth here anymore; we talk about healthy churches. We feel that a healthy church is growing, and the growth and health of the church is directly tied to the growth and health of the pastor. Our number one call is to help that pastor get on a track of personal growth and leadership development," he said. With the annual Season of Home Missions just around the corner, Bass also emphasized that "America is not a Christian nation; it's a mission field. We believe our association has the right to ask churches, 'What is your mission?' When they tell us what their strengths are, we say, '... Now what are you going to do with them?'"

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Just in time for Valentine's Day, Ron Bennett of Woodville and Mary Hawkins of Weir are married at French Camp Church after meeting each other in June 1985 during a volunteer mission trip to northern Argentina.

20 years ago

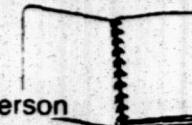
Robert E. Self, pastor of First Church, Batesville, and his wife attend the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., as the personal representatives of Mississippi Governor Cliff Finch, a resident of Batesville prior to his 1975 election.

50 years ago

Blue Mountain College announces the school's annual traveling operetta productions will be reinstated after being canceled during the war years. The first production, "My Mary-land," will be performed in seven locations across the state.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



Is the treadmill winning?

"Working nine to five, what a way to make a living," is the hymn of the day for many people. Some see this time as the most exciting in which to live; probably an equal number see it as a treadmill. Guess who is winning.

The days are described as "Dullsville," a real downer, the very opposite of a super high. People are in a rut which they describe as a grave with both ends kicked out.

Jeremy Rifkin, in his book *Time Wars* (as quoted recently by Baptist World Alliance General Secretary Denton Lotz), said: "Clearly we have had to pay a heavy price for our efficient society. We have quickened the pace of life only to become less patient. We have become more organized but less spontaneous, less joyful. We are better prepared to act on the future but less able to enjoy the present and reflect on the past. We have learned how to extract and take things at a faster pace but only end up exploiting and devaluing each other's time at the workplace in order to increase production quotas. The efficient society has increased our superficial creature

comforts but forced us to become more detached, self-absorbed, and manipulative in relation to others" (Rifkin, p. 19f).

Many things you can change, some you cannot. Jonah's gourd vine shows that we can have happiness but for a moment.

Some days are destined to bring heartaches and frustration — February will eventually pass and April flowers will come. Obstacles build up like a summer storm, but they, too, will pass away.

At the first sign of trouble we feel that we can manage it. There is the business, the rainy day savings, then family, relatives, and friends to help us. It is a daunting task to consider the nursing home, detention center, drug rehab, and the dozens of other "juniper trees" which pop up in the desert.

After a season the trouble may have evaporated; eventually it all boils down to trusting God. "Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is a faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands" (Deut. 7:9).

Faith gets us off the treadmill and puts us on eagle's wings. It opens the Dead Sea, pours forth water in the desert, and brings a song in the night.

Feeling down and out, overwhelmed? David felt that way when his own children rebelled and his close friend betrayed him. In anger, grief, and confusion, he cried to God: "Evening, morning, and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice" (Psalm 55:17).

In *Amen and Good Morning God*, Jo Huddleston prays: "God, I feel as effective as a lamp without a light bulb. Nothing turns out right for me any more. Please help me not to dwell on the worst that could happen, but to concentrate on all the wonderful blessings that have come my way. I need to feel good about today. Thank you for helping me rid my mind of negative thoughts. Amen."

The treadmill symbolizes exhaustion, frustration, and discouragement, but God is never too tired to listen and help us. His strength is the source of our strength, and it is boundless and endless.

Olympic Games "More than Gold" to Baptists, other denominations

ATLANTA (BP) — Evangelistic ministries during the 1996 Olympic Games will have more in common than a desire to share the good news of a risen Christ. They will share a theme and witnessing tools influenced largely by Southern Baptists' Atlanta International Ministries (AIM '96) and Home Mission Board (HMB).

The theme of "More Than Gold" has been adopted by a consortium of denominations and para-church organizations as the basis for evangelistic ministries related to the Olympics.

The HMB's "Interactive Pocket Guide '96" — an evangelistic booklet that also contains Olympic records and previous gold medal winners — is destined to be the principle witnessing tool for many evangelical organizations.

"It's just really neat to see how this has snowballed," said Toby Frost, HMB associate director of mass evangelism and chairman of the AIM '96 evangelism committee.

Frost said the consortium of organizations — the Olympic Outreach Partnership — was formed out of a larger group called Sports Outreach America to seek ways to coordinate evangelistic ministry efforts.

An Olympic lapel pin and the pocket guide will be the principle evangelistic tools used by AIM '96 volunteers and others working in association with the Olympics.

The pin is important because of the enormous popularity of pin trading during the Olympics. Almost every organization, sponsor, or sport associ-

ated with the Olympics now creates its own pin, and many people collect as many of the pins as possible through trading, Frost said.

"Pin trading is one of the ways that relationships are made during the Olympics, and we wanted to use that," Frost said. "In Barcelona, a huge park right there in the middle of town was designated for pin trading."

The pin — and the logo it bears — is designed as a simple witnessing tool in the same way "power bands" with five different colors of beads have been used to share the gospel for years.

The pin logo also has five colors: blue, representing God's royalty and hope; his love for

mankind; dark purple, representing darkness, sin; red, representing Christ's sacrifice; gold, eternal life; and green, growth as a new Christian.

The same means of presenting the gospel is



work in hospitality booths where the Olympic soccer, volleyball, and rhythmic gymnastics competitions will be held. An additional 580 volunteers will serve June 29-Aug. 3 in various ministries at the site of the water sport games on the Ocoee River near Benton, Tenn. State Baptists staffed 15,000 hospitality bags with items such as Band-Aids, sunscreen, and snacks, to be distributed during the Olympics. At present, all volunteer requests have been filled. For more information on other Olympic ministry opportunities, contact Jan Cossitt, Mississippi WMU, (601) 968-3800 or (800) 748-1651.

AND SO, PASTOR JOHNSON MOVED TO A NEW CHURCH, THIS TIME DETERMINED WITH ALL HIS SOUL, NOT TO LET THEM GET HIS GOAT!



THE FRAGMENTS

The plow

In my possession of "valuable things" is the remnant of a plow handle — a Georgia stock. The wood is porous and gray.

At one time, it belonged to my grandfather and it has his fingerprints all over it. I suspect most of my uncles and my father used it for a season. Sweaty hands have grasped it a thousand times and cotton plowlines have been looped over it. Weary farmers have leaned against it while taking a swig of water. Corn, cotton, and the garden, plowed reverently, gave us our daily bread.

The plow stock is not worth a dime to anyone else, but it's a

used in the Interactive Pocket Guide '96. The 32-page booklet doesn't look like a traditional tract because it contains Olympic records for selected events, as well as winning countries for all events in 1992. But it also contains a complete gospel presentation.

Also included is a response card that can be mailed to the HMB indicating whether a person has made a profession of faith or is interested in learning more. The AIM committee has made a commitment to send materials and refer to a local church anyone in the world who responds.

Training will be made available through the HMB in use of both the pin and the pocket guide.

The board made an initial order of 3 million of the pocket guides,

memory bank to me. I haven't plowed a field in 50 years.

My children have never plowed, but someone has worked in the fields to provide food for the table. The plow testifies to a work ethic of hard labor and trust in God to provide. I decided early that the "G.P." in the sky meant "Go Preach," not "Go Plow."

Still, the memories clutter around the plow stock just like the plow clutters up the storeroom. I wanted to keep it in the house, but my wife reminded me that Papa always kept it outside. One day it will be thrown away, but it will not be by these hands. — GH

and already hundreds of thousands have been purchased by other denominations.

"I would encourage every church... to order these products and use them for their church's outreach, because the Olympics is not only about Atlanta, it's about the world," Frost said. "And the Olympics is going to be the best bridge to share Christ."

The "More Than Gold" pin and the Interactive Pocket Guide are currently available through HMB customer service, (800) 634-2462. A brochure listing those materials, as well as those produced by other groups with the "More Than Gold" theme, is being prepared for distribution to churches.

For further information, contact AIM '96 offices in Atlanta at (404) 872-0096.

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Missionary Watts, son in coma after auto accident in Peru

TRUJILLO, Peru (BP) — Foreign Mission Board (FMB) officials are asking Southern Baptists to pray for members of a missionary family critically injured in an automobile accident in Peru Feb. 1.

Missionaries Wade and Nancy Watts of Memphis, and their two sons, Marcus and Joshua, were on a mountain road outside of Huancayo, south of the capital, Lima, when the accident occurred.

Watts, 40, and Marcus, 9, have been in comas since the accident and were listed in grave condition Feb. 9. Neither Nancy Watts, 35, nor Joshua, 7, is in a life-threatening situation.

Marcus and his mother were airlifted to Memphis hospitals Feb. 6.

Joshua, who was hurt the least, flew by commercial airline Feb. 5 with FMB missionary Kathy Phillips to Memphis, where they are staying with retired FMB missionaries Marvin and Jean Fitts.

Wade Watts was brought from Lima, Peru, to Memphis by medical evacuation airplane on Feb. 13.

Doctors had previously considered his condition too unstable to risk a lengthy flight to the United States. He was in a Peruvian air

force hospital in Lima with injuries to the brain and internal organs.

His condition at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Central is unchanged: comatose and critical, but stable. Doctors report no brain wave increase, Phillips said.

Marcus is in intensive care at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center in Memphis with possible brain damage. He continues to show evidence of waking up from his coma — moving his limbs and opening

his eyes — and doctors expect to move him from the hospital to a rehabilitation facility in about two weeks.

Surgeons at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Central in Memphis repaired several fractures in Nancy Watts' face, thumb, and wrist. She was in stable condition Feb. 9, and a full recovery is anticipated.

She continues to need prayer as she adjusts to the realities of supporting Wade, Marcus, and Joshua, said Bill Goff, associate director for work in Spanish South America.

Immediately after the accident, Nancy Watts and Joshua were kept at a medical clinic near the accident site. Wade Watts and Marcus were taken by ambulance to a government-run hospital in Huancayo,

where both underwent brain surgery. All were airlifted to the air force hospital.

Nancy Watts and the boys were sleeping when the accident occurred about 2:30 p.m. Feb. 1. The family was on the way to Huancayo, where they planned to take a short vacation. Another driver involved in the wreck suffered shock and trauma and has been unable to recall the accident. Rescue workers cut him from the wreckage.

Watts and his wife, the former Nancy Tate, both of Memphis, were appointed as missionaries to Peru by the FMB in 1986. They live in Trujillo, where he works in secondary education and men's work and she is a church and home worker.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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FMB lists 50 of 645 new overseas jobs as "priority"

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Foreign Mission Board (FMB) has selected 645 new career missionary jobs to fill in 1996, 50 of which have been designated strategic priority requests.

The 50 priorities reflect a global emphasis by board area directors. Half of these are for missionaries to work in virtually unevangelized parts of the world. The rest are to further evangelize areas already highly responsive to the gospel or to accomplish other strategic goals.

Last year FMB missionaries began work with 41 new people groups, many of them virtually untouched with the gospel. In 10 years, the board has increased its total resources committed to unreached people groups from 1% to 13.5%, said Avery Willis, senior vice president for overseas operations.

But this is just a beginning. "It will take a mission force equal to our present number of missionaries (4,100-plus) just to have one missionary unit (single or married couple) assigned to each unreached people group," Willis said. This year's requests address this goal.

The priority list gives board officials the opportunity to "encourage applicants to look at top (priorities) within a certain skill," said Jim Riddell, associate director of the board's missionary personnel department. His department reviews the list monthly.

While sharing the gospel falls under every missionary's portfolio, the majority of personnel requests specify evangelism and church planting as an actual assignment. A sampling of those priority requests include:

— Church starter in the historic area of Novgorod, Russia, or the

Andean town of Cajamarca, Peru, and other locations.

— Evangelist/health worker in Kanuri, Nigeria.

— Student worker in South Korea.

Other assignments focus on specialized needs:

— Teaching hearing-impaired students at a school in Gaza.

— Teaching soil conservation and crop management among the Afar people in Ethiopia, or in Madagascar, helping local farmers in animal husbandry.

Some priority requests call for dual roles, such as one for a church developer/pilot for a remote area of Equatorial Brazil. In this case, other missionaries assigned to this area cannot begin their work until this position is filled.

Missionaries on the field last year were able to respond to spiritual and human needs beyond their actual program assignments. Among them was Mike Cannata in Tanzania (whose mother, Mississippian Ginny Cannata, recently retired from missionary service to Ethiopia with her husband Sam) found three missionary colleagues and two children of missionaries after they had been kidnapped and then deserted in a wild game park last August. Overwhelmed by the immense area they needed to search, Cannata prayed. Less than 10 minutes later, he found the group basically safe and healthy.

The board's priority focus has worked well matching applicants and their gifts to critical needs. Last year, of 129 priority requests considered "fillable" (not including those canceled or put on hold), 60 were filled, said Lloyd Atkinson, director of the board's Per-

sonnel Selection Department.

Some are repeated several years before being filled.

"There is no doubt in my mind that God has called someone to fill each one of these," Atkinson said.

Anyone interested in learning more about career missionary service through priority requests or other needs may call (800) 999-3113 or write P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Southern Baptist aid agency Cooperative Services International has launched an effort to collect and ship food to relieve hunger in North Korea caused by a flood-induced famine.

In cooperation with CSI, the WMU and Brotherhood Commission will coordinate collection of foodstuffs provided by Southern Baptist churches. CSI has offered to arrange for overseas shipping to North Korea from the U.S. West Coast.

State Brotherhood and WMU leaders are developing specific plans to carry out the project in each of their state Baptist conventions.

General guidelines call for collecting 50,000 boxes of food during the next several months, officials said. Each box will contain

dried beans, powdered milk, corn meal, flour, spaghetti, and rice. In addition, donors will be asked to contribute \$20 per box to help defray the cost of shipping.

The first commitment to fill a 20-by-20-foot shipping container with food has been made by Kenneth King, director of the San Marcos (Texas) Association and a Brotherhood Commission trustee.

Financial contributions to the North Korea relief project may be sent to CSI, P.O. Box 6841, Richmond, VA 23230; to the WMU Vision Fund, 100 Missionary Ridge, Birmingham, AL 35242-4352; or to the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104.

Those seeking more information may call WMU toll-free at 800-295-6536, or Brotherhood at 800-280-1891.

WMU names two Mississippians to be Acteens panelists, Top Teens

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Two Mississippi teens are among Acteens from 16 states who have been tapped by Woman's Missionary Union to serve on the 1996 National Acteens Panel and as 1996 Top Teens.

The 26 teenagers were selected from nearly 100 teenaged Acteens members nationwide who applied to serve on the national panel. Acteens is the missions organization sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union for girls in grades seven through 12.

Acteens named to serve on 1996 National Acteens Top Teens from Mississippi are Leah Dedeaux, Jackson, and Keri Sullivan, Crystal Springs.

"These girls represent the best of what the Acteens organization can help girls become," said Jan Turrentine, design editor of the Acteens magazine, Accent. "Their

views of the world and its people are so refreshing and inspiring."

"Each application... was a portrait of a young person with a deep faith, a bold testimony, and a strong missions commitment," added Becky Nelson, design editor for youth products at WMU. "Teens today must choose where to spend their free time and their choices are many. I am impressed by these young women who have chosen to use their time serving others and sharing their faith."

During 1996, panelists and top teens will provide leadership in state and associational WMU-related meetings. In addition, panelists will write for Accent and serve as pages at the June 9-10 WMU annual meeting and June 11-13 Southern Baptist Convention, both in New Orleans.



Sullivan



Dedeaux



Trading one field for another

When **Urban Green** (right) and wife Loretta returned from the foreign mission field, they didn't give up their lifelong vision to make a difference for Christ. Their work with African-Americans in the Tulsa (Okla.) area has earned acclaim from both Southern Baptists and National Baptists. (HMB Photo by David Winfrey)

MC hosts conference of journalists, instructors

Mississippi College (MC) will host the 10th annual Southeastern Journalism Conference Feb. 22-24, with 220 journalism and communications instructors and students expected to attend from more than 40 college and universities.

"It's quite a coup for MC to host this conference. These are leaders in college journalism in the Southeast," said Sidney Smith III, instructor in the department of journalism at the Baptist-affiliated college in Clinton.

The conference will be held at several locations around downtown Jackson, including the MC School of Law, the new **Clarion-Ledger** newspaper building, and the Edison Walthall Hotel.

Speakers include nationally-syndicated columnist Deborah

Mathis, a former **Clarion-Ledger** columnist who currently covers Washington, D.C. politics for Gannett newspapers; and Tommy Miller, deputy editor of the **Houston (Texas) Chronicle** and a former journalism instructor at the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

Other components of the conference include a job fair for students, student competition in a variety of journalism skills, and entertainment by Christian contemporary artist Jeff Crews.

The conference is being sponsored by the **Clarion-Ledger**, the Mississippi Association of Broadcasters, and the Mississippi Press Association.

For more information, contact the MC Department of Communications at (601) 925-3462.

David Byrd named Boyce dean emeritus

Mississippi native David Q. Byrd has been named dean emeritus of Boyce Bible School in Louisville, Ky.

Byrd was dean of Boyce, a division of Southern Seminary that provides ministerial training for non-college graduates, until his retirement in 1988.

Byrd, a Brookhaven native who grew up in Clinton, was pastor of Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian, from 1949-53. After leaving Meridian, he became pastor of West Jackson Church, Jackson, Tenn.

Byrd earned degrees from Mississippi College and Southern Seminary.

His wife Floriene is a native of Prentiss.

Coming home doesn't void calling for former foreign missionaries

By David Winfrey

TULSA, Okla. — Location doesn't dictate calling for home missionaries Urban and Loretta Green.

The two were foreign missionaries to Nigeria and Ghana until Mrs. Green's illness forced the couple home in 1980. He served as a home missionary four years until her health improved and they returned to Nigeria for six years.

Green now works with African-American congregations in Tulsa.

In addition to teaching church based courses on stewardship,

Sunday School training, and evangelism, Green also instructs students at the School of Religion, a cooperative project between Southern Baptists and National Baptists.

Many friends and associates of the Greens describe them as color-blind, a trait they attribute to their work in Africa.

"We couldn't ask for a better reception than we've had," he says.

Loretta Green adds, "We feel really honored to work with National Baptists."

Both contend too few Anglo Southern Baptists take the time to get to know African-American Christians.

"We are not willing to take time to build a relationship," he said.

Some Southern Baptists fail to recognize the spectrum of worship styles among African-American Baptists, he said. "There's not a typical worship service. There's the same variety you see among any other collection of Christians."

Rather than starting separate churches for African-

Americans, Green said he prefers to see churches be more open to integrated worship.

"My own feeling is that with very little change the predominately white church can reach the African-American community," he said.

Green noted that a predominately white congregation may not reach all African-Americans, but he adds, "They don't reach all in the white communities."

One place Green is happy to point out as an example of integrated worship is Gilcrease Hills Church.

As the community grew, more African-American membership

in the predominately white church declined to about 25 in attendance for Sunday morning worship.

Former pastor Craig Brown said he saw that the future of the church required African-American leadership.

Working with Green, Brown invited a student of the School of Religion, LeRon West, to preach one Sunday when Brown was out of town.

The members responded positively to him, and Brown led the church in calling West as co-pastor.

"Only God could do that," Brown said.

Attendance has grown to more than 75 on Sunday mornings, and the group is about half white and half black, they said.

Green contends the same thing could occur in other churches serving racially mixed communities.

"I still believe the gospel has the power to break down any barrier that we as a society have built up," he said.

Winfrey writes for the Home Mission Board.

HMB volunteerism continues to rise

By David Winfrey

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — The number of Southern Baptists serving through Home Mission Board volunteer opportunities continues to rise annually. An estimated 81,300 volunteers served in Christian ministries through the agency last year, up 1.8% from 1994.

Youth volunteers comprised the largest category, with 39,931 individuals — up by more than 1,700 compared to 1994. Also increasing were the number of college volunteers, with 3,745, up nearly 800. Mission Service Corps volunteers grew by 177 to a total 2,193.

More than 24,500 adults served last year in short-term volunteer projects coordinated through the Home Mission Board. Volunteers coordinated through the agency's evangelism section and language church starting division totaled an estimated 10,900.

Volunteers serve in a variety

Correction

Due to a computer error in the list of "1995 Baptisms in Mississippi" on page 5 of the Feb. 8 issue, Mt. Olive Church in Hattiesburg was inadvertently omitted. The church should have been listed in 15th place statewide with 72 baptisms in 1995. Arthur L. Siggers is pastor.

of ways, from construction and summer missions activities to church starting and missionary support. More information about volunteer missions opportunities is available from local Baptist associations, state volunteer coordinators, or the Home Mission Board at (800) HMB-VOLS.

Sunday, Feb. 25, 1996, is Volunteers in Missions Sunday for Southern Baptists.

WMU leaders coming to Mississippi to hear of concerns, successes

A pair of national Women on Mission leaders will be in Mississippi on March 27 and 29 at two town meetings to hear state Baptists' concerns about the Women on Mission program and the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

Andrea Mullins, Women on Mission consultant with the national WMU office in Birmingham, and Cindy Drake, editor of **Missions Mosiac** magazine based in the WMU national office, will be present at:

— Calvary Church, 1300 West Capitol Street, Jackson, from 1-2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27. Church telephone: (601) 354-1300.

— University Church, 3200 West Arlington Loop, Hattiesburg, from 1-2:30 p.m. on Friday, March 29. Church telephone: (601) 264-6908.

Attendees will be invited to share ideas about the Women on Mission program and relate success stories from local churches, as well as offer suggestions for improving the program.

Admission is free. No child care will be available.

For more information, contact the Mississippi WMU Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

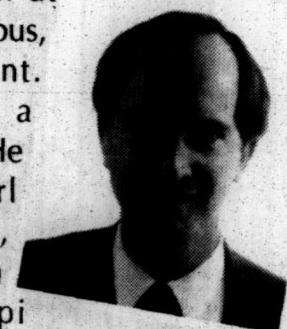
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HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Office of Communication, MBCB.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHAPLAINS ASSOCIATION

The Mississippi Baptist Chaplains Association has elected two persons to serve as officers for 1996.

Jim Blackwell, chaplain at Baptist Hospital in Columbus, will serve as President. Chaplain Blackwell is a native of Bogalusa, La. He is a graduate of Pearl River Community College, University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the father of four children.



Paul G. Stephenson, director of Pastoral Care Department at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, will serve as vice-president. Stephenson is a native of Texas, a graduate of East Texas State University, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He earned his doctor of ministry degree from Bright Divinity School. Chaplain Stephenson and his wife have two children and two grandchildren.



The Home Mission Board's 1996 Home Mission Study will focus on Chaplaincy. The theme is, "Going Where Others Cannot Go." Chaplains do the work of home missions in institutions, the military, hospitals and nursing homes, law enforcement, jails, prisons, and race tracks. A chaplain may be a friend to a runaway youth in a juvenile center, a missionary to an executive in business, and a Christian witness with people of special needs in unique places.

Churches interested in inviting a chaplain to teach the home mission study are asked to contact the WMU Department of MBCB.

Reflections of the Heart

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart: and lean not unto thine own understanding." Proverbs 3:5

Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Conference

April 22 & 23

Camp Garaywa Clinton, Miss.

Simultaneous conferences will include...

• REFLECTIONS ON OUR MINISTRIES

...The Agency Secretary — led by Connie Evans, secretary in the Education Department at Mississippi College

...The Associational Secretary — led by Juanita Schilling, secretary in the Mississippi Association office

...The Education Secretary — led by Carol Salers, education secretary at Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson

...The Financial Secretary — led by Jamie Luecke, financial secretary at Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus

...The Music Secretary — led by Charlotte Bass, secretary in the Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

...The Only Secretary — led by Tinie Slade, secretary at Bayou View Baptist Church, Gulfport

...The Pastor's Secretary — led by Virginia Fulton, retired pastor's secretary, First Baptist Church, Grenada

PASTORS:
Why not arrange for your church secretaries to attend this conference today?
(registration info at bottom)

...The Senior Adult/Recreation/ Activities Secretary — led by Becky Witt, certified church secretary for Baptist Sunday School Board, Chattanooga, Tenn.

...The Youth Ministry Secretary — led by Vicki Williams, youth ministry secretary, Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton

• REFLECTIONS ON OUR ADMINISTRATIVE AND SPIRITUAL SKILLS

...Basic Business English — led by Becky Witt, certified church secretary, Chattanooga, Tenn.

...Proofreading — led by William H. Perkins, associate editor, "The Baptist Record"

...Legal Issues — led by Julius Thompson, director, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

...Salaries and Annuities — led by Robia Nichols, Annuity Representative, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

...Basic Computer Skills — led by Dennis Stringer, minister of music, Westview Baptist Church and computer consultant for several area churches

...Witnessing — led by Gene Henderson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Brandon

...Secretary's Role in Missions — led by Toni Kee, teacher at Wilkinson County Christian Academy and site director for Back Yard Bible Clubs

• REFLECTIONS ON OUR HOMES AND FAMILIES

...Creative Entertaining — led by Martha Collins, Martha's Inc., Jackson

...Interior Design for the Homemaker — led by Martha Ratliff, Martha's Interior Design, Jackson

...Decorative Wreaths — led by Sherry Matthews, Personal Touch Flowers, Madison

...Landscape Management — led by Martha Hill, licensed landscape architect and instructor in Landscape Management Technology, Hinds Community College

...Relaxation — led by Gary Heine, director of Physical Therapy, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center

For registration information contact the **Church Administration- Pastoral Ministries Department** at 1-800-748-1651 or in the Jackson area at 968-3800. They will be glad to help you with your questions.

Let's pray this day for... February 23-March 7, 1996

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

*Savior, teach me day by day,
Love's sweet lesson to obey;
Sweeter lesson cannot be-
Loving Him who first loved me.*

— Jane E. Leeson, 1842

African-American Fellowship; Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

the Season of Prayer for Home Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

young people to be sensitive to God's call during the Volunteers in Missions Day Emphasis

the All State Youth Choir Auditions in various associations February 26-March 2

the Church Music Conference, FBC, Natchez, 1:00 p.m., March 7th-Noon, the 8th

the BSU directors in Mississippi to have an effective influence among students

Christians that they will witness to people involved in New Age Movements. They believe there is no such thing as sin.

the presidential candidates seeking their party nominations during this election year

the safety of our missionaries as they travel to their places of ministry

Jim Henry, President of our Southern Baptist Convention, as he decides on who to appoint on various committees

prayer conferences in associations and churches this spring and summer as training is given for starting prayer ministries

churches participating in Church Growth campaigns

for churches without pastors and ministers without pastorates

the thousands of international students studying in U.S. colleges and universities that they will be influenced by Christian friends



APRIL

The numbers indicate the day of the month and the year of birth. For example, 3-89 means April 3, 1989.

3-89 — Miss Alicia L. Racey, 2415 Carter Road, Biloxi, MS 39531; Parents: Michael D. & Annette E., Theological Education; SERVE IN CHILE

4-83 — Miss Jennifer L. Johnston, Caixa Postal 2053 Jockey 64.049-970 Teresina, PI, BRAZIL; Parents: F. Vincent & Sharon B., Conference/Encampment

5-86 — Miss Katherine M. Hammack, 169 Boundary St., Kowloon, HONG KONG; Parents: K. Duane & Sandy L., Social Ministry

9-91 — Mr. John M. Curtis, B.P. 130, Tenkodogo, BURKINA FASO; Parents: Clifton F. & Cathy P., Agriculture

15-81 — Mr. Joel K. Glaze & Mr. Seth R. Glaze, 4329 Seminary Place, New Orleans, LA 70126; Parents: David J. & Gloria M., Media Promotion; SERVE IN ARGENTINA

17-80 — Mr. Jacob W. Wallace, Apartado Aereo 51687, Bogota, COLOMBIA; Parents: Karl W. & Peggy V., Mission Administration

17-77 — Miss Reginald Jones, 875 Adams Drive, Greenville, MS 38703-6060; Parents: Eddie & Barbara, Pastor

19-80 — Miss Bethany A. Pevey, 864 Laughlin Road, Cleveland, MS 38732; Parents: Frank D., Jr. & Jerry Anne H., Mission Administration; SERVE IN TANZANIA

21-82 — Mr. Joel B. Collins, c/o ACS Suriname, P. O. Box 02-5567, Miami, FL 33102-5567; Parents: Charles & E. Suzanne, General Evangelism

21-81 — Mr. Benjamin D. Stacy, Rua Osorio Duque Estrada, 700, 82520-470 Curitiba, PR, BRAZIL; Parents: Roger D. & S. Penelope, Church Starting

24-83 — Mr. Justin A. Martin, Casilla de Correo 5, 8400 San Carlos de Bariloche, ARGENTINA; Parents: Asbury H., Jr. & J. Hope, General Evangelism

28-87 — Miss Rebekah Lauren Ray, UEC - Baptists, 3-AL. Tolstago Street, Kiev-4, 252004, UKRAINE; Parents: Mike & Linda, Religious Education Promotion, SERVE IN WESTERN

Senior Adult Celebration Rally

Area 8 • March 28, 1996
9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

at Family Life Center at Jeff Davis Covington Baptist Association Office on Highway 41 east from Mt. Olive

- Music by Family Baptist Association Senior Adult Choir
- Message and Gospel Music by Bill Baker former pastor of First Baptist Church Clinton

Cost: \$7.00 includes meal due by March 20

Send to: Senior Adult Rally
Jeff Davis Covington Assn.
Rt. 1, Box 253-A
Collins, MS 39428

HOUSE TOPS

I came to Gulfshore expecting to have a great summer, yet I had no idea what an experience it would be. I thank God for this opportunity, for I know it was His plan for me. I've made friends that will never forget, and I've climbed a spiritual mountain that I pray I never leave.

— Sha Boatner

Gulfshore is walking with Jesus. Your friends encourage you as Jesus would; we love the campers as Jesus loved us. Everyone is willing and faithful to serve for Jesus Christ.

— Tony Loper



1995

GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY SUMMER STAFF

Pictured are members of the 1995 summer staff of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. These young people, representing 20 campuses from across Mississippi, assisted in providing the services necessary for the operation of Mississippi Baptists' conference facility. Summer attendance will be approximately 7,000 persons for the 18 conferences sponsored by the various departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and approximately 1,500 CENTRIFUGE campers, according to Frank Simmons, assembly manager.

FRONT ROW: (left to right) LATISHA POWELL, COLUMBIA, MC; JENNY HARRINGTON, AMORY, MC; JENNIFER COLLINS, UNION, MC; KIMBERLY SISK, OKOLONA, UM; STACEY AVANT, WATER VALLEY, UM; LAURA HOLT, LONG BEACH, MSU; CARLA GLENN,

DECATUR, USM; JANICE MILLER, ABERDEEN; JENNIFER BROWN, LONG BEACH, MGCCC; ELLEN CONE, MT. OLIVE, JCJC.

SECOND ROW: CHRISTA CAPPLEMAN, JACKSON, MC; LORI HANSA, CLARKSDALE, MDCC; SHA BOATNER, COLLINSVILLE, MSU; DEE DEE FORTENBERRY, COLUMBIA, WCC; JENNY HAWKINS, COLUMBUS, MUW; SARA WATSON, PHILADELPHIA, MSU; GEINENE HAYNES, HENDERSONVILLE, TN, WCC; LORI BOYDSTON, MANDEVILLE, LA, WCC; HEATHER IRBY, MARKS, DSU; APRIL CLARK, ABERDEEN, MSU; TRACI PATTERSON, MENDENHALL, CO-LIN; PRESLEY CARTER, TUPELO, USM; MARTIN BODENHEIMER, LYNDY BODENHEIMER (HOUSEPARENT), BELDEN.

THIRD ROW: CHAD WALKER, MAGEE, HINDS; MIKE FONDREN, JR, STEENS, BMC; CHRIS JOHNS, MENDENHALL, USM; JODY HAWKINS, COLUMBUS, EMCC; BEN SKIPPER, SHUQUALAK, EMCC; JASON PARKES, LOUISVILLE, MSU; KEVIN NAGY, BILOXI, DSU; ION MIXON, HATTIESBURG, USM; ROBBIE LINLEY, CLARKSDALE, MDCC; CHASE MOORE, MERIDIAN, WCC; LAUREN BODENHEIMER,

DAVID
BODENHEIMER (HOUSEPARENT), BELDEN.

FOURTH ROW: CHAD RENNER, CLARKSDALE, MDCC; JOSH BREWER, GULFPORT, MC; MITCH WALKER, MENDENHALL, USM; JASON TOWNSEND, ISOLA, MUW; JEREMY McMAHAN, TUPELO, NECC; GREG WOODS, LONG BEACH, MGCCC.

FIFTH ROW: CHARLIE STEVENS, ANNISTON, AL, MC; RODNEY CARVER, GULFPORT, USM; MICHAEL AOA, CORINTH, DSU; KELLY WHEAT, PRENTISS, USM; JAY MCGUFFEE, MONTICELLO, USM; BOB SULLENDER, VICKSBURG, MC; TONY LOPER, VICKSBURG, HINDS; FRANK SIMMONS, LONG BEACH, MANAGER.

NOT PICTURED: VICKI ADCOCK, DECATUR, ECCC; BRADLEY BAKER, NEW ALBANY, UM; STEPHANIE BEERS, TUPELO, UM; CHRIS GRAY, PEARL, WCC; BRAD JOHNS, MENDENHALL, MC; DEBBIE McELVEEN, CLINTON, MC.

Managers of two...

Mississippi Baptist retreat facilities are seeking college students for 1996 summer employment. These positions are missions opportunities at Central Hills Baptist Retreat and at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

Gulfshore, situated at Pass Christian, is managed by Frank Simmons. The assembly's summer program begins on May 13 and continues through Aug. 9.

The Gulfshore schedule features senior adult, single, youth, music, family, and adult leadership conferences. It is hoped that 1996 attendance will be the largest ever for Gulfshore, said Simmons.

Available positions include food services, Red Cross trained lifeguards, housekeeping, registration and office, first aid, and grounds and maintenance.

The assembly provides an interesting program of activities for the staff; and they have the opportunity for service as well as personal spiritual growth and development. It provides a wonderful opportunity to meet people from various places in Mississippi and to develop meaningful and personal friendships with these people.

Dan West, manager of Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko, needs staffers to begin with orientation on June 2. College-age men are needed to serve

as counselors, activity instructors, and operations workers. Activity leadership is needed for horseback riding, riflery, archery, the ropes course, handicrafts, and camp craft skills. American Red Cross-certified lifeguards are needed for the swimming pool and at the lake for canoeing activity.

Simmons and West will be interviewing prospective staffers Feb. 26 through March 7 at the following locations.

For more information about an interview, contact a local Baptist Student Union director, Frank Simmons at 601-452-7261, or Dan West at 601-289-9730.

The recruiting schedule is as follows:

Monday, (Feb. 26) Miss. Delta Community College BSU, 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

Delta State BSU Center
3:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M.

Tuesday, (Feb. 27) Northwest MS Community College BSU, 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

Blue Mountain College BSU Center
2:30 P.M.-5:00 P.M.

Harrisburg BC Tupelo, Fellowship Hall
7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Wednesday, (Feb. 28) Miss. State University BSU Center
11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Northeast MS Community College BSU, 10:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Ole Miss BSU Center
3:30 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

East Central Community College BSU
11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Miss. College-Rogers Student Center
3:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Hinds Community College BSU Center, 10:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Co-Lin Community College BSU Center, 3:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Southwest MS Community College BSU, 5:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Jones County Junior College BSU
11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

William Carey College, Lawrence Hall
2:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

FBC Hattiesburg-Sharpe Activity Room
7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

University of Southern MS BSU Center
10:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir

• Auditions •

FEBRUARY

- 26 North Oxford BC, Oxford — 5-8 p.m.
27 Harrisburg BC, Tupelo — 5-8 p.m.
29 Emmanuel BC, Columbus — 5-8 p.m.

MARCH

- 2 Baptist Building, Jackson — 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
(instrumental audition on this date, also)

Auditions will include:

- A solo (no tapes)
- Sightreading
- Tonal Memory
- Singing their voice part from a hymn

Audition Fee: \$3.00 per person

Registration Deadline: One week prior to audition

Contact the Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651 for further details on these auditions.



ONE VOICEIN CONCERT

FEbruary 25 • 6 p.m.

MORRISON HEIGHTS BC • CLINTON

ONE VOICE is the music/drama ensemble of the Church Music Department, MBCB. Call Church Music at 1-800-748-1651 for more information.

HOUSETOPS

Sisters. Brothers, gather 'round. stand with me on *Common Ground*

Conferences for
worship leaders preparing
for the 21st century

April 15-17, 1996
FBC, Jackson

With different responsibilities from different churches, with different musical tastes from different cultures, with different ways and styles of worship, we come to a place of common ground.

Common Ground: a worship conference celebrating the things we have in common. It's for pastors, music directors, youth directors, children's directors, education directors, choir workers, accompanists and instrumentalists — for all those who are considered worship leaders within their community of faith.

General Sessions led by Harold Best and Calvin Miller. Morning, afternoon and evening worship gatherings, concerts, special interest sessions* including:

- Planning Special Events
- How Christian Educators Support Worship
- Guiding Preschoolers and Children Toward God
- Worship Planning: Staying Fresh
- Worship Music in the Black Church
- Drama in Worship
- Electronic Instruments in Worship
- The Accompanist as Worship Leader
- Planning Special Services with the Hymnal
- Working Together for Planning Worship
- The Invitation as a Response to God in Worship
- Making Ordinances Meaningful
- How Christian Educators Educate to Enhance Worship
- Personal Worship

*led by Baptist Sunday School Board representatives and local church practitioners

Program
Personalities



Calvin Miller



Harold Best



Terry York

Morning, afternoon and evening
worship gatherings, concerts,
special interest sessions

Sponsored by the Music
Department, BSSB, Nashville

To obtain further information or to register for this conference contact
the Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651.

30 YEARS CELEBRATION (1966 - 1996)

Purpose: Families to volunteer and to involve the first grader to single/senior adults. The second phase to involve all areas of the church ministries: Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Music, etc.

FAMILY MISSIONS BLITZ '96

July 20-24, 1996

Natchez, Adams Association

Types of Missions:
VBS/Backyard Bible Club (Larry Salter); Medical Mobil Unit (Jan Cossitt); Preschool, Children and Sr. Adult Day Camps (Glenn Shows); Pavilion at State Park (Paul Harrell); River Ministries Project (Richard Brogan); Family Night Celebrations (Graham Smith). (For other areas contact Dale Little, DOM of Adams Association.)

Information on lodging, schedules/procedures — Glenn Shows — 1-800-748-1651.

HOUSETOPS



Letters to the editor



Thanks for story

Editor:

Thank you so much for the heart-warming story of Clarence Carter and Robin Nichols. I just loved the line in the piece that called Carter and Nichols "near perfect matches." It reminds us that underneath our skin we are all the same. What a wonderful object lesson in love and acceptance Mr. Nichols' act of service demonstrates. I pray that God will

continue to show us the similarities of all races through such stories. May God bless us as we serve one another in love.

Sandee Manning
Shubuta

Farewell to Clarke

Editor:

For the past three years I have been very quick to express my opinion about the Mississippi Baptist Convention's decision to close

Clarke College. I have also worked very hard in an effort to purchase the property and reopen the school. I did so believing Clarke College served our Convention well and still had a place among our family of Baptist institutions. I apparently was wrong. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to our Convention for being very patient and understanding about my decision in pursuing this course of action.

I believe there were many mistakes made in the closing of Clarke

College but the initial mistake was made by the Clarke family in our failure to support our school prior to the 1980 vote to merge. This became very clear to me in our efforts to raise funds to purchase the campus and fund a new school. It appears the majority of the Clarke family want "our school" but we want someone else to pay for it.

I feel the decision to sell the property in parcels is the only thing that can be done at this point. I hope this will bring clo-

sure to the Clarke College issue for our convention.

A special word of appreciation needs to be expressed by all to Larry Otis, the chairman of the Special Clarke Committee. Larry was always open, straightforward, and extremely helpful. He had a difficult job and received criticism he did not deserve. Larry is a man of integrity and we all should be proud he is serving our Lord in the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Nelson Crozier, pastor
First Church of Sharon
Laurel

Abortion apathy

Editor:

I feel I must write this letter. As you know, Jan. 21 was "Sanctity of Life" Sunday. I wonder how many people in the churches knew or cared.

For the third year and under the leadership of two different pastors, it was not mentioned at my church. I wept on my way home thinking 30 million murdered children weren't even worthy of mention. Those millions who are yet to die weren't worthy of a prayer.

I firmly believe that many church people, even some in leadership roles have no idea what God says about many moral, religious, and political issues that are subjecting our nation to the holy wrath of God.

In talking to "Christian" people about the issue of abortion, I've heard: "I don't address political matters from the pulpit"; "Christians shouldn't get involved in politics"; "I just don't want to hear gruesome stuff at church"; "A woman has a right to choose"; "Who am I to tell another they are wrong"; "We aren't supposed to judge"; "What about those children who aren't wanted? They are at least in heaven."

As I talked to a young person about living for God, he said, "My church teaches me that if I'm saved that is all that matters," though his habits didn't reflect those of a child of God.

I wonder, too, how bad does it have to get before the Christian community gets involved? If it were like it is in China, where the aborted babies are sold for human consumption, would we cry out "Enough!"?

If pastors and deacons from only the Southern Baptist churches had been pierced to the heart over the millions of undeserved deaths this past Sunday (Jan. 21), and had led all the people in a brokenhearted prayer, things would surely change in this nation.

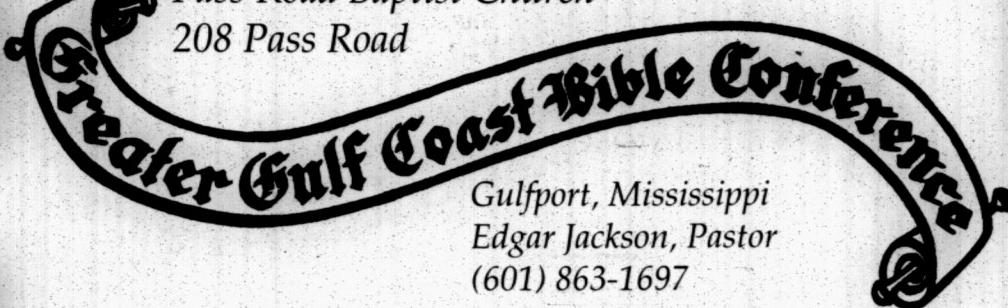
I say with all humility and without any arrogance, I have no respect for preacher, deacon, or church leader who is not broken within heart and spirit over this issue.

Name withheld by editor

Editor's Note: "Sanctity of Life" Sunday was observed in many churches. Many churches show their opposition throughout the year rather than on this particular Sunday.

INTRODUCING THE 5TH ANNUAL

Greater Gulf Coast Bible Conference
Pass Road Baptist Church
208 Pass Road



Gulfport, Mississippi
Edgar Jackson, Pastor
(601) 863-1697

MARCH 3-7, 1996

Dear Friend,

I'm so happy to invite Pastors, Staff Members, and Lay People to Gulfport, MS for the **FIFTH ANNUAL GREATER GULF COAST BIBLE CONFERENCE**... March 3-7, 1996.

Pastors, this will be a great time for you, your wife, and your leadership to draw together with other great men of God in WORD, WORSHIP, AND PRAISE. As we unite our hearts together, times of refreshing, renewing, restoring, and reviving will come from the Spirit of God.

We will have some of the most anointed speakers and worship leaders available to the church today. Our most humble prayer is that our Most Holy Lord will use this conference to absolutely and forever change the life of every saint who comes.

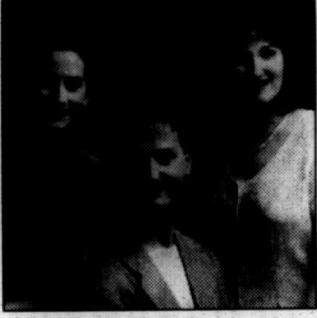
If we can help you in any way, please call or write.

Edgar Jackson, Pastor

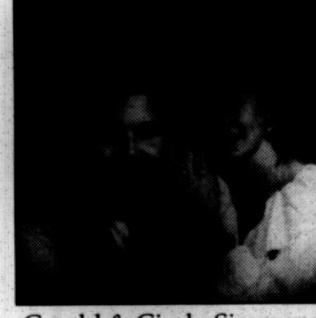
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The Martins
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Gulfport, MS

SCHEDULE

Sunday through Thursday,
All Evening Sessions Begin 6:30 p.m.

March 3-7

Sunday March 3,
Monday through Thursday

10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

March 4-7

Morning Services 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m.

Wed., March 6 at 6 p.m., Invasion of Praise featuring all our music evangelists.

A nursery is provided for all services. Lunch and Evening meals will be served each day for our guests. Continental breakfast each morning.

RESERVATIONS:

Shoney's Inn (601) 868-8500
Hwy 49 Airport

When making reservations, please identify yourself with the **Bible Conference** in order to receive the **Special Rate**.

To Pass Road Baptist Church: From I-10 Take Hwy 49 South to 25th St. (Pass Road). Turn Left. Go through 5 traffic lights, Approx. 2.5 miles. Look for church on left next to Delchamps Supermarket.

Names in the News



First Church, Lake, honored A.F. Hollingsworth (center) on Jan. 21 for 25 years of service as church treasurer. A plaque was given during the morning worship service. After the service a luncheon was held in Forest for Hollingsworth and his family. Jimmy Hollingsworth (left) is minister of music; LaVerne Summerlin (right) is pastor.

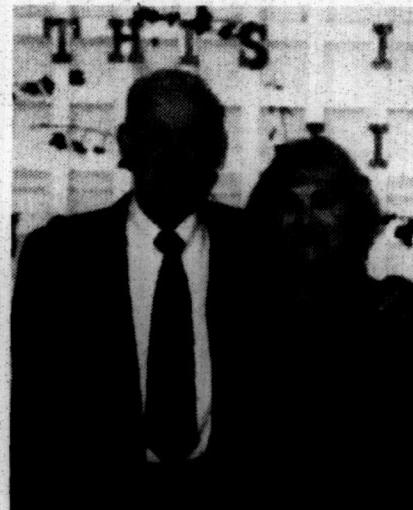
Louise Hill Miller, member of Murphy Creek Church, Louisville, died Jan. 25. She was a youth consultant in the Training Union Department (now Discipleship Training and Family Ministry Department) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from 1944 until 1960. At the time of her death she was director of Winston Association's Christian Ministry Center.



Miller

Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, ordained Larry Newell, John Hines, Jamie Gunnells, and David Malone to the deacon ministry. Forrest Sheffield is Harrisburg pastor.

Clara Ray Mize, 94, died Feb. 3 at Manhattan Health Care Center in Jackson. She was the widow of W.G. Mize, former longtime director of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village. Mrs. Mize was a native of Clarendon County. She moved to Jackson in 1920, and was a member of First Church, Jackson for 76 years. Survivors include: sons W.G. Jr. of Greenwood and Jerry L. of New Orleans, daughter Nancy Newman of Jackson, brother Miles Ray of Durant, seven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.



Woman's Missionary Union of First Church, Moss Point, held a banquet honoring its deacons during Deacon Emphasis Week. Special recognition was given to **Norris (Booby) Faggard**, a deacon for 26 years, for the hours he visits, witnesses, and works with the Homes of Grace, nursing homes, and functions of the Jackson Association. He was presented a plaque by Bobby Perry, director of missions for Gulf Coast Association and former pastor of First Church, Moss Point. Pictured with Faggard is his wife Jane.

Correction

Furlough address for **David and Gloria Glaze**, missionaries to Argentina, is 438 E. First St., Forrest, MS 39074. Telephone: (601) 469-1069. The address given in the Feb. 8 issue of **The Baptist Record** was incorrect.

Just for the Record

Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, will sponsor a Health Fair "A Journey of Life into LIFE." The fair will be held on Feb. 24 from 7:30 a.m.-12 noon.

Pass Road Church, Gulfport, will hold its 5th annual Greater Gulf Coast Bible Conference, March 3-7. There will be three services beginning March 4-7 at 9, 10, and 11 a.m. Night services begin at 6:30 p.m. Lunch and dinner will be served each day. The speakers will be Paul Tsika, Wade Trimmer, Doug White, and Jim Hill. The praise and worship will feature The Balltzgliers, D.K. & Co., Gerald and Cindy Simmons, and The Martins. Edgar Jackson is Pass Road pastor. For more information call (601) 863-1697.

Mid Winter Bible Study at Kolola Springs Church, Caledonia, will be held from 7-9 p.m. on

Feb. 26-28. Benton Goodman of First Church, Millport, Ala., will teach from the book of Amos. Don Harding is pastor.

Alcorn Association will hold a Missions Fair for all ages on Feb. 27 in Corinth at the Wheeler Grove Church gymnasium. Beginning at 7 p.m., the fair will include exhibits, games, and food. Volunteers will be recognized.

Central Association in Albuquerque, N.M., is searching for a director to provide leadership for its Baptist Neighborhood Center. This center provides a needed ministry in an inner-city area of Albuquerque and consolidates evangelism and community ministries. Resumes should be sent by March 1 to Central Baptist Association, ATTN: BNC Director Search Committee, P.O. Box 485, Albuquerque, NM 87103-0485.

"180 Conference" scheduled for Hinds Community College

On March 4-6, the first-ever "180 Conference" will be held at Hinds Community College (HCC), Raymond campus, in Cain Hall Auditorium at 7 p.m. The event is sponsored by the HCC Baptist Student Union (BSU) and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

Guest speaker for the conference will be Bill Buckley, consultant for Mississippi FCA and former wide receiver at Mississippi State University, where he broke several records. He was later drafted by the New York Jets.

Guest musician will be Derrick Burt of Jackson. HCC students will also share in testimonies and song.

"We want students to see that life with Christ is a chance for a change — a chance to turn your

life around," said Kara Tompkins, BSU missions coordinator.

Rohan Crown, a student from Edwards and part-time youth director at Highland Church, Vicksburg, said: "Our goal is simply to see lives changed on our campus and throughout the college by the power of Jesus Christ."

The conference is open to any interested persons. Wednesday will be a special youth emphasis night. Youth directors are encouraged to bring their youth groups.

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Uniform Showing kindness



By David Mitchell
Ruth 2-4

A young woman was waiting for a bus in a slum area one evening when a rookie policeman approached her. "Want me to wait with you?" he asked. She replied, "Thank you, but that's not necessary. I'm not afraid." "Well, then," he said, grinning, "would you mind waiting with me?"

Acts of kindness are so simple that we often overlook the opportunity to be kind to those around us. Boaz is a prime example of one who displayed kindness in a Christ-like manner.

The meeting (2:1,8-10). The meeting of Ruth the gleaner and Boaz the owner of the field and kinsman of Elimelech is beautifully presented in chapter two. Gleaning was the gathering of the grain or fruit that was dropped or overlooked by the harvesters. It was established by ancient law (Lev. 19:9-10, Deut. 24:19-22). It was in the field of Boaz that Ruth was gleaning. Ruth quickly caught the attention of Boaz. He spoke kindly to her and insisted that she stay in his field and go nowhere else to glean. He also instructed her to gather with his maidens and demanded that his workers show respect to Ruth. Foreigners could be heckled or otherwise mistreated. Boaz ensured that Ruth would not be bothered by the laborers as she gleaned in his fields. As we study the kindness of Boaz to Ruth we should be motivated to show extreme kindness to all people wherever they might be and wherever we might find them.

The heartstrings (2:11-12). Boaz was fully aware of Ruth's kindness toward Naomi; this was the reason he gave for being kind to her, a foreigner of Moab in the land of Israel. Placing himself in a posture that made him accessible to God, Boaz made himself available to be used of God to answer his own prayer. As we study Boaz's statement that he knew of Ruth's kindness to Naomi it should make us aware that our acts of kindness can motivate others to be kind also.

The marriage ring (4:13-17). The devotion of Ruth had made this happy occasion possible. Ruth was of extreme importance to Naomi, more so even than seven sons, which would indicate an ideal number. The love story includes not only the love between a man and a woman but displays the strength of a friendship bond of love between two women. This is the only place (v. 15) where the Old Testament uses the term "love" to describe the relationship of one woman to another.

The love story of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz climaxed with a happy conclusion. The Scripture presents us with a beautiful picture of "a kinsman, redeemer." Ruth had chosen to marry within the family of Elimelech and now Boaz as the next of kin was to assume his responsibility. After following all the legal requirements of the law, Boaz took the right of redemption himself and he and Ruth were married.

The first born son of a union between Ruth and Boaz would be legally considered the son of Mahlon, and the land in question in Chapter 3 would go to this son. In time Ruth bore the expected son. However, this son was far more important than simply being a landholder. The birth of a male child was an occasion for great celebration. The story that had begun in such harsh conditions as death and famine was coming to a conclusion with a happy celebration. It was customary for the women of the village to lead in the merriment surrounding the birth of a son. These women in typical fashion came together expressing praise to a gracious God and continued in the celebration by naming the son Obed.

The name Obed means "servant." It is probable that the women who chose the name for Obed intended to memorialize Ruth's devoted stewardship to Naomi. The son born to Boaz and Ruth now stood in the Davidic lineage and he was destined to share in ancestry the same lineage which would come to the greatest servant of all, Jesus.

The book of Ruth was written to counter the narrow nationalism that fostered Israel's false pride in a favored status with God and that shut out non-Israelites. Without question this book teaches that God uses the weak things of this world to bring himself glory. Those not of the covenant of Israel by birth may share in that covenant by faith. The book also helps us see that God is active in the lives of his people and that his wisdom and love rule.

Mitchell is pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson.

Bible Book Church relationships



By Clayton Littlejohn
1 Timothy 5, 6

Paul's advice to Timothy teaches that relationships in the church should be characterized by respect, integrity, fairness, and concern. Are there people in your church who are being overlooked, left out, or treated disrespectfully? If so, Timothy shows you how to change that situation.

Relating to people in different age groups (5:1-2). In this passage, Paul described the church metaphorically as a family: father, mother, brother, and sister. To function properly in a family or church, relationships must follow God's principles. Parents are to instruct and discipline; children are to honour and obey (Eph. 6:1-4). In the church, treat the "elders," older men, like you would your father.

Timothy was to look upon the younger women as "sisters, with all purity." This would keep him from getting sexually involved with them. To have a positive testimony, treat everyone in the church like family, with love and respect.

Relating to widows (5:3-12). God defines pure religion as, "undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction..." (James 1:27). Because of war, slavery, and death there were many widows in the church. Since women were forbidden to work in public, most widows had little or no income. If they had no children, grandchildren, or relatives (vv. 4, 16) who could support them, the church was instructed to take care of them.

This was one of the first problems to arise in the church (Acts 6:1-7), and is still a problem today. The solution is for the church to become like supportive children a widow doesn't have. If a widow does have grown children and other relatives, it is their obligation to care for her. If they don't, they would be "worse than infidels" (v. 8). Infidels were unbelievers who were selfish and disrespectful. For a church to fail in caring for its widows, the church would be worse than an infidel. There were and still are some who would use the church for personal gain, so every widow must meet the qualifications in verse 5.

In verse 9, Paul made the transition from financially supporting the widows to supporting those who were eligible for ministry. The word "number" is the same as the word "list," and to be on the widows' ministry list, the widow had to be at least 60 years old — beyond childbearing age and unlikely to remarry. They were to have had only one husband, be proven in good works, a godly mother, shown hospitality to strangers, humble enough to wash the saints' feet, meet needs of the afflicted, and faithful in all things (v. 10). These qualifications would eliminate many from the list, and others to be omitted were the "younger widows" (vv. 11-15). They still had many years ahead of them; still have physical desires that could lead to forsaking God and following Satan. So Paul wrote that they should "get married, have children, and continue in the faith" (v. 14).

Relating to elders (5:17-21). The word "elders" is referring to the pastors and not older men as in 3:1-2. The word is plural; most churches had more than one pastor (Phil. 1:1, Titus 1:5). "These who rule well... who labor in word and doctrine" are worthy of double honour. This means: "Pay your preacher what he's worth!" The word "honour" here is where we get our word "honorarium," which is a monetary expression of thankfulness.

Do you pay your pastor what he's worth? Most churches do. Some of us are overpaid, but sad to say, some churches are financially abusing their pastor and his family. Paul quoted the Old Testament to prove it was biblical in paying the pastor.

From time to time, accusations come up about a pastor. If someone wants to accuse your pastor of something, you should listen only when two or three others are present. If you find after much investigation that the accusation is true, then the pastor is to be rebuked before the church (vv. 19-20). This does two things: it gets the sin out in the open so healing can begin (Gal. 6:1-3); and it will make the others think seriously before getting involved in sin for fear they, too, will be publicly humiliated. By following God's principles, we can have relationships in the church that are just as warm and loving as those in our homes.

Littlejohn is pastor of Ingram Church, Baldwyn.

Life and Work A model prayer



By Linda Donnell
Matthew 6

How often are we guilty of mindless, rote prayers? Few Christians would reveal that praying is not a part of their daily life. But how much real praying goes on? William Carey wrote that "real prayer is life creating and life changing." Think how different our world might be if all Christians were true prayer warriors.

Jesus provides a model prayer (v. 9a). Perhaps Jesus recognized that real prayer is something that is learned. He offered a model prayer for his disciples — a model that teaches us to have the right attitude toward God and to recognize our total dependence on him. This guide was given not to copy, as in the vain repetitions of the Pharisees' prayers, but as an example: "This is how you should pray." It is not wrong to quote the model prayer; however, if we do, we should be careful that we *pray* the prayer instead of merely *saying* the prayer. There is a difference! True prayer is a sacred fellowship between man and God.

Prayer emphasizes God's glory (vv. 9b-10). The first three petitions in the Lord's model prayer center on God. Only when God is put first do our needs and desires align with the will of God (Matt. 6:33).

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said that his whole religion could be summed up in the first two words of Jesus' prayer: "Our Father." The "our" immediately takes away self and places us in a worldwide family of believers. Recognizing God as Father firmly implants in our minds that he will love us and take care of us through all — and not just me, but all his children.

After recognizing God for who he is, the next step in prayer is to give him the reverence that he deserves. As we meditate on his glory, we can begin to submit to God's will and have him work through our lives. This is the difficult part in learning to pray. Our selfish nature tends to make us want to jump over the first part and immediately move into the "wish list" on our minds.

Prayer focuses on human needs (vv. 11-13). God, as Father, is concerned about our needs. In fact, he knows them even before we ever tell him (v. 8). Why then should we pray? Simply put, it is God's prescribed way for working through our lives (James 4:1-3). We need to know and remember that prayer is designed to adjust us to God, not God to us. God does not *need* our prayers; he wants them.

As we pray for "our daily bread" (v. 11), we are recognizing God as the supplier of physical needs. Further, this petition teaches us to live one day at a time and not to be anxious about the future. Again in this verse, the plural pronoun "our" is used to imply that we should not be concerned about *me* and *my*.

The second petition of personal need (v. 12) demands that we recognize our sinful state and bring it before the Lord. After praying for forgiveness, we should then ask God to control and empower us with the Holy Spirit (v. 13). It is not that God tempts us, but it is God who can help us to overcome in our trials.

Some translations conclude the model prayer with: "For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen." This is a wonderful benediction: ending, a beginning, with praise to God.

Prayer involves the responsibility of forgiving others (vv. 14-15). All of the petitions given in Jesus' prayer were common to the Jews except the fifth one, regarding forgiveness. This was probably why further explanation of this topic was given. If God answered the prayer of the petitioner who had an unforgiving heart, he would be dis honoring his own name. The purpose of prayer is to adjust man to God. How could he work in and through a life with this type of attitude? As we forgive others it gives evidence that God's grace is at work in our hearts.

Where are you in the learning process of prayer? In what ways do your prayers need to more closely follow this model prayer? Right now, try *praying* the model prayer with a full understanding of each phrase uttered.

Donnell is a member of First Church, Hattiesburg.

capsules

"SOUPER BOWL" SUNDAY RAISES \$1 MILLION FOR POOR: COLUMBIA, S.C. (ABP) — Churchgoers across the nation gave more than \$1 million to feed the poor and hungry as they left worship services on Jan. 28. Brad Smith, a Presbyterian minister in Columbia, S.C., is credited with founding the "Souper Bowl" in 1988 when he prayed on Super Bowl Sunday, "As we go home to enjoy the Super Bowl, let us remember those who are without even a bowl of soup." Worshipers at participating churches were asked to give \$1 dollar as they left worship services Jan. 28, the day of the National Football League championship game between the Dallas Cowboys and Pittsburgh Steelers. The youth group at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church in Columbia, S.C., collected funds for the project, which raised \$5,700 in 1990. By 1995, it had grown into a national effort, raising \$450,000. This year the Souper Bowl collections passed the \$1 million mark, with more than 3,500 groups participating, according to Presbyterian News Service.

CHRISTIANITY IN AFRICA: David Barrett is one of the world's leading experts on missions statistics and was formerly a missionary to Kenya from England. He writes: "At the beginning of this century, there were only 9.9 million people in the whole continent of Africa who called themselves Christian. But because of God's blessing in missions, by the end of this century, at the present rate, there will be over 393 million people who will call themselves Christians in Africa." (From a collection of missionary stories by J. Christy Wilson in *Missionary Monthly* magazine.)

FLORIDA MISSION BOARD EXCLUDES CHARISMATICS: JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP) — Three churches have been kicked out of the Florida Convention for "neo-Pentecostalism," a charge that pastors of two of the churches deny. Florida's state board of missions voted Jan. 26 to deny membership credentials to Citrus Christian Ministries, formerly First Church of Homassassa Springs; Riverside Christian Fellowship, formerly Riverside Church, in Hernando; and Main Street Church in Inverness. Last year, Alachua Association voted to disfellowship the Homassassa Springs congregation. The Inverness church resigned from membership in the association in August, followed by the Hernando congregation in October. According to a news report in the **Florida Baptist Witness**, Executive Director John Sullivan told state board members the three Central Florida churches recognize speaking in tongues as a measure of filling of the Holy Spirit, restoration of the office of apostle, and the "laughing revival" associated with the controversial Toronto Airport Vineyard church. "I urge that we stand along with this association," Sullivan told board members prior to the vote. "You cannot just believe anything or everything and be Baptist." It is thought to be the first time the Florida convention has ever disfellowshipped a church.

ZAMBIA PROMISES PERMITS FOR FMB MISSIONARIES: LUSAKA, Zambia (BP) — Zambia has promised to provide long-sought work permits for Foreign Mission Board (FMB) missionaries who have decided to help a new breakaway group of Baptists there. Immigration workers for the southern African nation had withheld permits at the direction of the Baptist Convention of Zambia since 1993. Since then some missionaries have transferred to other countries or resigned, while others are reapplying every 30 days to stay in the country. Also at the meeting were convention representatives and missionary Dan Sowell, the Foreign Mission Board's mission administrator for Zambia. This time the immigration officer gave Sowell the green light for FMB missionaries to keep working in Zambia.

QUAYLE TOUTS RELIGIOUS ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMS: INDIANAPOLIS (ABP) — Religious organizations do a more effective job of helping hurting people than government ever can, former Vice President Dan Quayle told the nation's religious broadcasters Feb. 6. "Some of the best work on behalf of the poor and desperate is being done by faith-based organizations," Quayle said in a keynote address to the National Religious Broadcasters convention in Indianapolis. "What we need in America is not more government programs that don't work," he said. "What we need in America is more religious programs that do work." The former vice president echoed a theme sounded earlier the same day by freshman congressman J.C. Watts of Oklahoma, one of only two black Republican members of the House of Representatives. Quayle talked about the "poverty of values" facing America and relished the fact that even moderate-to-liberal commentators have finally conceded he was right in his famous 1993 Murphy Brown speech. That speech drew howls of protest in the secular media because of Quayle's assertion that Hollywood was wrong to glamorize the TV character Murphy Brown bearing a child out of wedlock. If America's rate of illegitimate births continues on its current trend, within 15 years one-half of all children will be born to unwed mothers, Quayle told the NRB members.

Louisville teen Wendi Womack serves as Sojourner in Florida

By Tim Nicholas

"Christians have more fun than anyone. That's the truth," said Wendi Womack, 17, of Louisville, who spent last summer as a Sojourner for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB).

The program is for senior high school students, who serve in various mission endeavors under the supervision of missionaries and pastors across the United States.

A member of First Church, Louisville, Wendi took her philosophy into seven churches in the Ft. Pierce, Fla., area, leading in Vacation Bible Schools (VBS), youth camps, youth fellowships, devotionals, and working in a nursing home.

Her partner was Melanie Wilson of Knoxville, Tenn.

"Some had never heard about Jesus from teenagers. We put it in terms where it was fun to hear about Jesus and be a Christian," Wendi said.

One VBS had only nine children. Wendi said two of the children at that church, a brother and sister, wore the same clothes every day.

"We tried to bring (the gospel message) down to them in simple terms," she said.

One day during the invitation time, the boy asked his teacher if this was the time. She nodded and "he grabbed his sister's hand and walked down (to the front of the church) with her," said Wendi.

At Wendi's last assignment, the youth group worked four days at the Florida Baptist Retirement Home at Vero Beach. They washed windows, wrote letters, painted fingernails, visited, and played games with the residents.

"It was like a light bulb came on. They were a totally different youth group (after those days at the retirement home)," said Wendi. Visits to that home are now a monthly ministry of that youth group.

"That was the most meaningful thing about the whole trip," she said.

Wendi's parents, Wendell and Pam Womack, weren't enthusiastic about her going on the mission trip. As a result of her Sojourner service, Wendi believes her parents have "a more dedicated prayer life now."

Her father's employer, Temco Steel, paid for her

Applications for Sojourners may be obtained from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Sojourners, 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30302-4174. Telephone (800) HMB-VOLS. Applications are due by March 15. Assignments are made in mid-April. Sojourners must have completed their junior year of high school. Only housing, meals, and transportation on the field are provided. Sojourners serve six to 10 weeks during the summer in pairs, on teams with other Sojourners, or with college-age summer missionaries.



Wendi Womack of Louisville, Sojourner missionary in Florida last summer, participated in burying a Vacation Bible School time capsule. The kids placed items about VBS they enjoyed into the capsule and drew a treasure map. They plan to dig up the capsule next year. Pastor Bill Boyd (center) of Walton Church, Port St. Lucie, also participated in the activity.

round trip flight to Florida.

After seeing her at work on several earlier youth mission trips, Wendi's Acteens leader, Jean Jones, had given her the Sojourners application. Wendi admitted it sat on her desk for a while before she sent it to the HMB.

She gave up cheerleading and basketball summer camps to serve as a Sojourner.

Though she'd been a starter on the basketball team since the eighth grade, Wendi sat on the bench most of this season at Winston Academy.

Wendi said that friends back home couldn't understand why she would want to give her whole summer to missions. Her response was: "It's worth it. No matter what you had planned for the summer, God's going to show you this is more important."

One change in Wendi's life is that now "my prayer life is different. I rely on prayer for everything. It's so much more now."

Jean Jones said that another teenager in the church was applying to Sojourners because of Wendi's experience.

"It was the experience of a lifetime," Wendi said. "Each church was a different mission trip in itself."

Nicholas is director, MBCB Office of Communications.

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Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Six: Four.

February 22, 1996